

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Senate Select Committee on  
Information Technologies**

**FINAL REPORT**

December 2000

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ISBN 0 642 71119 4

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## Resolution of Appointment

On 25 March 1999, the Senate resolved:

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Information Technologies, be appointed to:
  - (a) evaluate the development of self-regulatory codes in the information industries;
  - (b) monitor the personal, social and economic impact of continuing technological change created by industries and services utilising information technologies;
  - (c) examine the Government's decision to establish a regulatory framework relating to illegal or offensive material published and transmitted through online services such as the Internet: and
  - (d) inquire into and report on such other matters as may be referred to it by the Senate.
- (2) That the committee consist of 8 senators, 4 to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, 1 to be nominated by the Leader of the Australian Democrats, and 1 to be nominated by an independent senator or a Green senator.
- (3) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (4) That the chair be elected from the government members of the committee.
- (5) That the deputy chair be elected from the non-government members immediately after the election of the chair.
- (6) That the deputy chair act as chair when there is no chair or the chair is not present at a meeting.
- (7) That, in the event of the votes on any question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and such recommendations as it may deem fit.

- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of three or more of its members and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider.
- (10) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.
- (11) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such documents and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.
- (12) The committee have power to consider and use for its purposes the minutes of evidence and records of the select committees on:
  - Community Standards Relevant to the Supply of Services Utilising Telecommunications Technologies;
  - Community Standards Relevant to the Supply of Services Utilising Electronic Technologies; and
  - Information Technologies.
- (13) The committee finally report to the Senate on or before the last day of sitting in the year 2000.

## Membership of the Committee for the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament

### **Chair:**

Senator Jeannie Ferris (LP, SA)

### **Deputy Chair:**

Senator Mark Bishop (ALP, WA)

### **Other Members:**

Senator Paul Calvert (LP, TAS)

Senator Brian Harradine (Ind, TAS)

Senator Kate Lundy (ALP, ACT)

Senator Julian McGauran (NPA, VIC)

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (AD, SA)

Senator John Tierney (LP, NSW)

### **Secretariat:**

*Secretary*

Ms Andrea Griffiths

*Principal Research Officer*

Mr George Kosmas

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